

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection



CDF OSFM STATE FIRE TRAINING

The CDF OSFM's State Fire Training (SFT) Program plays a critical role in the professionalism of the California (CA) Fire Service.

The SFT Program is a collaborative effort of the CA Fire Service that work together to design and deliver courses that provide fire service personnel at all levels with the knowledge and skills to do their jobs professionally and safely. Fire departments and individuals donate thousands of hours annually to support curriculum development, issuance of instructor credentials, and certification of personnel.

Through the efforts of organizations such as the CA Fire Chiefs Association, CA Professional Fire Fighters, and the CA Fire Technology Directors, individual community colleges and fire departments, courses are delivered to approximately 40,000 students per year. SFT courses are delivered in every county of the state and at approximately 45 community colleges. Many SFT courses lead to academic degrees as well as professional certifications.

As one of the premiere state-level fire service training programs in the nation, courses and programs that are developed in California are often emulated across the United States.

State Fire Training consists of two main program elements: the California Fire Service Training and Education System (CFSTES), and the Fire Service Training Program (FSTEP).

CFSTES is a system of course delivery and certification. Eleven (11) certification tracks for both career and volunteer fire fighters have been created. Certification criteria consist of prerequisites such as work experience, completing a specific course of study and passing the appropriate certification examinations. Once completed, fire service personnel may submit for certification in positions such as Fire Fighter, Fire Officer, Chief, Instructor and Fire Prevention Officer.

FSTEP is a program that assists local fire agencies in meeting their specific training needs. Courses include, live-fire training, auto extrication and wildland firefighting. Courses delivered through registered instructors may be "custom" tailored to meet each department's needs.

Established by the legislature, the State Board of Board of Fire Services serves as an advisory board to the California State Fire Marshal for the purpose of developing technical and performance standards for the CA Fire Service.

